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STANDING ORDERS

FOR

1ST BATTALION

OF

QUEBEC MILITIA,

1845.

Quebec:
PRINTED BY G. STANLEY, 4, ANN-STREET.

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As obedience to orders and strict discipline are essential in all Military Bodies—particularly in Her Majesty's Regular Service — without which the British Army could never have attained the high character which it so justly merits; so also in Regiments of Her Majesty's Militia are the like requirements equally essential —and, situated as this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions are, bordering on the United States— the Militia ought to be ever ready to stand forward in the defence of their country: and although the Law under which we at present serve as Militiamen does not require any frequent Muster of the Men or any duty which can take them from their civil occupations,—yet as it has pleased His Excellency the Governor General to direct that a certain number of Battalions should be formed within the City of Quebec, and the command of the first having devolved upon me, and as His Excellency has further directed that the *rules* and *regulations* of *Her Majesty's service should be followed as closely as possible*, I have deemed it my duty to issue for the guidance of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Battalion, a certain number of Standing Orders, which if obeyed and received as I expect they will be, with a desire to individual improvement and the good of the service, each Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, and Private, marking well the duty required of him—the duty of the Commanding Officer in supporting the discipline of the Regiment under his command will be easy, although some of the Orders I have given may not

be considered to apply to the Militia so long as it is in a Sedentary state; yet, I would desire to impress upon the mind of every individual under my command, the great advantage that obedience to them now will cause; should any sudden emergency call forth the active services of the 1st Battalion, when I should entertain a confident hope that they will be acted up to in "letter and spirit." His Royal Highness the late Duke of York when Commander-in-Chief, declared it as his opinion "that the most perfect civility, and the most conciliatory manners are perfectly compatible with the exercise of the strictest command," and in a Militia Regiment it is more particularly requisite;—and I request the Officers' attention to this in all communications with the Men, that their orders and instructions are to be given in a calm temper; but, at the same time in a decisive mode of enforcing authority. As a proper attention to the comfort of the men is a means of strengthening their respect for their Officers, I would desire that the Captains of Companies should once a month visit the quarters of the men of their Companies, and that a monthly report of such visit be made to the Commanding Officer—stating the condition of the men and their families, and whether any during the month from sickness, or any other cause, have become incapable of service, or have removed from the limits of their Company; these and various other general attentions by the Officers to the necessities of the Men, will greatly tend to keep up, what ought ever to exist, unanimity and good feeling in the Battalion.

J. G. IRVINE,
Lt.-Colonel Commanding
1st Batt. Q. M.

OFFICERS.

It would be desirable that all Officers who can obtain them should have in their possession the following Books:—

1.—Field Exercise.

2.—Manual and Platoon Exercise.

3.—General Regulations and Orders of the Army.

LIEUT.-COLONEL AND MAJORS.

The Lieut.-Colonel commanding is responsible for the order and discipline of the Battalion, in all its parts, and it is his duty to watch over the conduct of both Officers and Men—but he will at all times feel it a duty and pleasure when in his power, to promote in every way, the interest of those under his command, and he trusts that the Officers will always consider him as their friend.

The Lieut.-Colonel expects from the Majors that implicit and undeviating support which will best ensure unity and promptitude of execution in carrying into effect all such measures as he may deem necessary to adopt, for the maintenance of discipline in the Battalion, and for duly administering its interior economy in the most enlarged sense: and in proportion to the zeal and ready cordiality with which this aid is accorded, will he be enabled to report to the higher authorities the value he has the satisfaction of attaching to their services.

It is the duty of the senior Major to attend and exercise a general attention over the Right Wing of the Battalion, and the junior over the Left,—

and the Commanding Officer holds them responsible for the efficiency, order, regularity, and discipline of the Companies of their respective Wings.

THE ADJUTANT.

The Adjutant is to consider himself as the person immediately responsible to the Commanding Officer—and he is to be considered as the immediate voice of the Commanding Officer—he is to be at all times vigilant and careful that the orders of the Battalion are attended to and obeyed by Officers and Men with scrupulous exactness; he should make himself acquainted with the characters and dispositions of the Non-Commissioned Officers, so as to assist them with advice and information where he perceives their defects arise from ignorance only—and to report to the Commanding Officer when these proceed from inattention or neglect; he is to have charge of the Regimental Books, and is held responsible for their being kept regularly and in accordance with the Regulations.

CAPTAINS.

So long as the Militia remains in its present sedentary state, the duties required of a Captain as well as of the Field Officers is but little, and many Orders that the Commanding Officer would issue if the Battalion was called out for active duty, need not at present be touched upon—but, there are some duties which are particularly re-

quired to be carefully done by the Captains, and which the Commanding Officer expects will be attended to. The 1st Battalion will consist of Ten Companies, and so soon as the limits of the said Companies are established, the Lieut.-Colonel will post the Captains to such as he may think proper, and no exchange of Companies is on any account to be allowed without his consent—after the Officers are appointed to each: so soon as the Captains are told off to their Companies it will be their duty to make out a clear and distinct roll of the Company under their command, which must contain the name and Christian name in full of every man—his age, trade, and whether a bachelor, or married, and if married the number of children. Every Captain must keep the roll of his Company in his possession, and ready at all times for the inspection of the Commanding Officer, or Adjutant, and a copy of the roll is also to be sent to the Adjutant as early as possible, that the Lieut.-Colonel may report to Head Quarters the strength of the Battalion under his command. It will also be the duty of the Captains to select respectable, intelligent men as Sergeants, and to transmit their names, age, and trade, to the Lieut.-Colonel, for his approval, but no appointment of a Non-Commissioned Officer is to be made without his sanction. The Lieut.-Colonel suggests that it would be advisable to obtain for Serjeants such men as have already been Serjeants either in the Line or the Volunteer service.

SUBALTERNS.

It is the duty of the Subalterns zealously to assist the Captain or Officer in command of the

Company to which they belong, the Subaltern must be particular in all his inspections and in every duty assigned to him by the Lieut.-Colonel or the Captain of his Company, and they must recollect that want of attention on their part encourages negligence in those under their command and destroys discipline—all irregularities observed by the Subaltern are to be reported to the Captain commanding the Company. As a general rule it is the duty not only of the Subaltern but of every Officer, to check and report all irregularities when he observes them, and so at all times to conduct themselves in an officerlike and gentlemanly manner, as to be an example and to command the respect of their inferiors; for if at any time, on duty or off, it should come to the knowledge of the Lieut.-Colonel that any Officer under his commanding should so conduct himself as to be unworthy of holding his Commission, it will be his duty to report the Officer's conduct to Head Quarters, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General or Officer in command of the Forces.

SERJEANT-MAJOR.

The Serjeant-Major is required to conduct himself so as to merit the respect of every individual belonging to the Battalion;—he must be most particular in his personal appearance and conduct, zealous in the performance of his duties, unremittingly watchful over the conduct of the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates—and make himself master of every part of the Drill and Field exercise;—he is the connecting link

between the Adjutant and the Non-Commissioned Officers in carrying on discipline ; and various are his other duties, which in the present state of the Battalion, need not be given in detail.

SARJEANTS, CORPORALS AND PRIVATES.

Every Soldier, or Militia Man, should, by his conduct, either on or off duty, endeavour to support the character of the Corps to which he belongs:—obedience is the first quality required of them;—it is the essence of discipline and the channel of advancement; they must ever be respectful to their Officers, to the Serjeant-Major and all in authority over them.

RULES BY WHICH THE RELATIVE RANK OF OFFICERS OF THE REGULAR FORCES, MARINES, MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER CORPS IS TO BE DETERMINED.

Officers of the Regular and Marine Forces command Officers of equal degree belonging to the other branches of the Service—Officers of Fencible and Militia Regiments rank together according to the dates of their Commissions.

Officers of Militia having also rank in the Regular Service, are not permitted whilst serving in the Militia, to avail themselves of any other rank than that which they hold by virtue of their Militia Commissions.

In Regiments of Militia where the Paymaster, or Quarter Master also hold the Commission of a Subaltern—they of course take rank according to the dates of their Commision.

OFFICERS ON LEAVE.

The Commanding Officer is desirous that any Officer intending to leave Quebec for a longer period than one month should signify in writing to him the probable length of time he is likely to be absent, that he may at all times be prepared to inform His Excellency the Governor General, or the Officer in command of the District, what the actual effective strength of the Battalion is, and it is also desirable that the Officers should leave their address with the Commanding Officer—that in the event of any sudden emergency requiring their being present with the Battalion, he may know where to transmit his orders to them.

ASSEMBLY OF OFFICERS.

Should the Officers at any time desire to meet together either for the purpose of dining together, or for the discussion of Regimental business, The Lt. Colonel, or Officer in command at the time must, first be consulted and his leave obtained, before such meeting shall take place.

And as it may occur that the Officers in their civil capacity may be called upon to attend public, or political meetings, the Commanding Officer begs to warn them in such cases not to make use of any power that they may consider themselves invested with by virtue of their Commissions as Militia Officers—for as Officers they have no right whatever to be present—And he calls their strict attention to the following extract on that subject from Her Majesty's Regulations, and every Officer acting in opposition to this Order shall be reported

by the Lt. Colonel to His Excellency the Governor General.

EXTRACT FROM HER MAJESTY'S REGULATION.

"Deliberations, or Discussions *among any class* of Military Men, having the object of conveying Praise, or Censure or any Mark of approbation towards their superiors, or others, are strictly prohibited, as being subversive of Discipline, and an assumption of power which belongs to the Sovereign alone, or to those Officers to whom the command and Discipline of the Troops may be entrusted by Royal authority.—It is therefore expressly declared, that every Officer will be held responsible who shall allow himself to be complimented by Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers or Soldiers who are serving, or who have served under his command, by means of presents of Plate, Swords, or by any collective expression of their opinion. And Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers are forbidden to institute, countenance, or attend Orange Lodges, or any other Meetings whatever for party or political purposes, in Barracks, Quarters, Camp or wheresoever held."

SERJEANTS IN WAITING.

So soon as the Serjeants are appointed it shall be the duty of the Captains of Companies to appoint one Serjeant in waiting for the month, the duty of the said Serjeant shall be to attend the Captain in making out the roll of his Company, and to attend him should he require his assistance, in visiting at

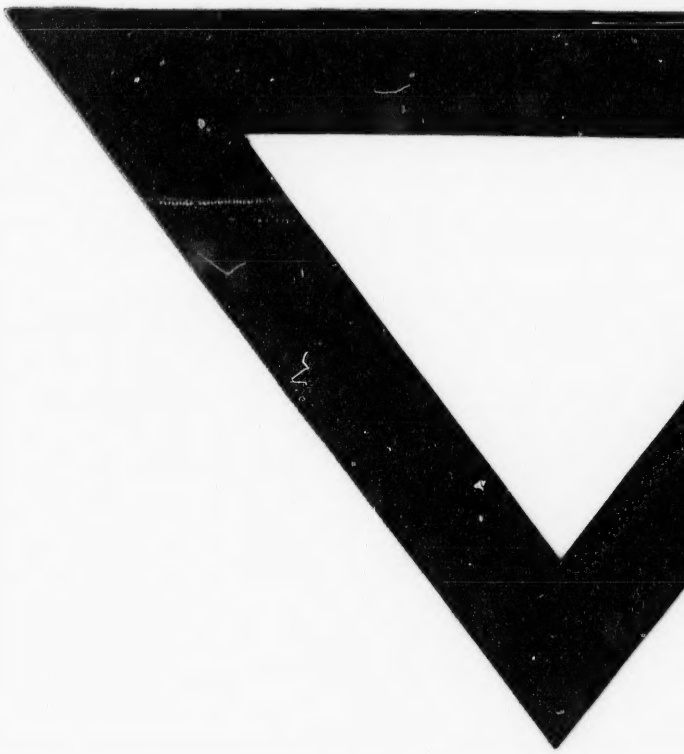
any time during the month, the quarters of the Men of the Company.—And it shall also be his duty to convey to the Officers of the Company any Regimental or other Orders which the Commanding Officer may issue.—Should the Serjeant in waiting be sick or absent, the next Serjeant in seniority is to take the duty—it will be his duty also to report to his Captain any death or other casualty which may happen within the limits of the Company during his tour of duty.

UNIFORM OF THE BATTALION.

The uniform of the Battalion as establishd on its first formation and as designated by the Colours —is Red, faced with Black—the facings of the Officers to be of velvet, and to be made in strict accordance with the pattern as worn by Her Majesty's Regiments of the Line, the Button to be a frosted Button with the Crown in the centre.

The undress to be a Blue Frock with shoulder straps as worn by the Line, with Regulation Sword and Sash.

Such is the established uniform which is on no account to be in the least degree deviated from—but, in giving out what the Uniform is, the Lt. Colonel wishes it to be most distinctly unerstood that he does not give it as an Order for the Officers to obtain their uniforms—but, he has authority for stating that it will give satisfaction at Head Quarters if it is known that the Gentlemen are provided with their Uniforms and ready if required on any public occasion to appear in it.

DRILL.

As it would be very desirable that the Officers of the Battalion should become acquainted with the most essential parts of the Drill and the Manual and Platoon Exercise—that they may when required, be able to assist in drilling the Men—The Lieut.-Colonel would be happy, if, during the Winter months, when their civil occupations will not so much interfere with their time, the Officers could occasionally meet together for the purpose of Drill, and receiving instruction ; and he feels satisfied that it will afford His Excellency the Governor General, satisfaction, if he can report that a desire of receiving instruction in all matters connected with the Drill and Rules and Regulations of Her Majesty's Service, exists among the Officers of the Battalion under his command.